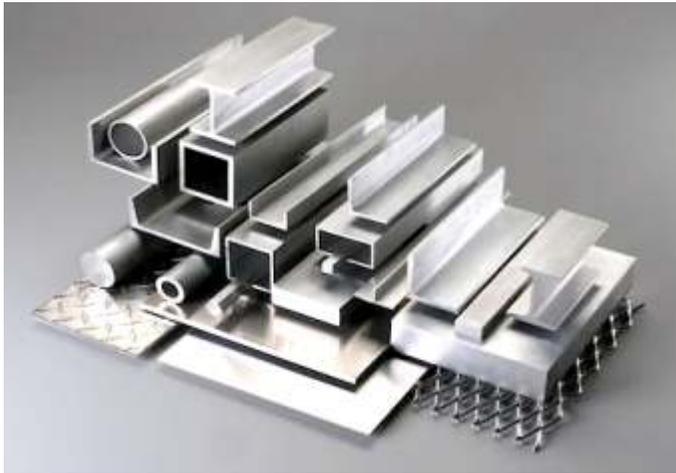


Domestic industry needs help to take on foreign companies : Hindalco



Aluminium major Hindalco sought government support to enable the domestic industry to take on what it called foreign economic invasion and urged it to encourage new investments.

"We seek government support to enable domestic industry to compete with the onslaught of foreign economic invasion. We urge government to encourage new investments to make India self-sufficient to meet domestic demand and a significant player in the world market," Hindalco Managing Director Satish Pai said.

Considering the growth potential of the aluminium industry, the sector needs policy intervention from the government, he said, speaking at the World Non-Ferrous Conference 2016 here.

The cheap imports are eating into growing domestic demand. In

the last five years, the imports from the ASEAN (FTA countries) have increased from 6 per cent of the total refined imports to 31 per cent, Pai said, adding India has enough domestic capacity in aluminium, copper and zinc to meet local demand.

The government is examining the flurry of cheap aluminium imports in the country and will take a decision on imposition of minimum import price (MIP) on the metal in the next 15 days, Mines Secretary Balvinder Kumar earlier said.

The Mines Ministry is examining the matter in great depth and has conducted 2-3 rounds of discussions with aluminium industry stakeholders, he added.

India's GDP is expected to grow at least at 8 per cent over the next few years, promising high growth for the non-ferrous industry. With China's growth slowing, India would be the most attractive market for major producers who are struggling with low demand and surplus capacity, Pai said.

The per capita consumption in India vis-a-vis the developed nations shows great potential for growth and with initiatives like 'Make in India' and development of advanced applications, non-ferrous metals would be the real engine for economic expansion, the Director of Aditya Birla firm stated.

The consumption of aluminium in India is poised for a healthy growth over the next five years, from 3.3 MT in 2015-16 to 5.3 MT in 2020-21. The growth is set to ride on the back of a host of government initiatives such as 'Make in India', Smart Cities, Housing for all, Rural Electrification and Freight Corridors, a Crisil report has said.

Pai said the industry needs to invest in R&D and technological innovations to manufacture and commercialise new age applications to compete in the global world.

Govt. of India planning to introduce star rating for mines

India government is planning to introduce a star rating for mines soon. There are plans to start satellite-based monitoring of mining activities across the country, said mining secretary Balvinder Kumar at an ASSOCHAM event held in New Delhi. Mineral deposits of every type including bauxite will be monitored through satellite imagery.

"If mines don't get 4 or 5 star rating they will get 2-3 years to comply. By end of November, we will finish first phase of star rating," he said.

The objective of the entire programme is to check illegal mining across the country through satellite imagery from National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC).



"We are going to monitor all the mining area through the satellite imagery. We are also going to launch mobile app where anybody can upload photo of illegal mining," Kumar said.

Mining automation plan with the help of web portal is being used to provide real-time base data across all states in the country, said Kumar.

"The export duty structure on iron ore shall not be change". About the pending cases of section 10A2C, there are about 304 cases pending under this category, he said.

Mining industry in India is undergoing a phase of recovery. Many reforms, mostly in the form of regulation and technology upgrades are taking place. This is true for mining of all types of industrial minerals including bauxite. Mining as an industry provides direct employment to nearly 2.6 billion people. Production of all minerals can be recorded on real time basis across all the states.